

Wherefore, I/we claim:

1. A stackable unit for automatically dispensing fluid to at least one growing medium container associated with the stackable unit, the stackable unit comprising:

at least one growing medium container;

a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;

a drainage channel communicating with the reservoir, and the drainage channel having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate draining of excess fluid from the reservoir;

the reservoir having at least one lateral dispensing opening for dispensing fluid from the reservoir into growing medium, when accommodated by the at least one growing medium container of the stackable unit; and

the least one lateral dispensing opening supporting a capillary member which controls flow of fluid from the reservoir to the at least one growing medium container, for providing moisture to thereto to facilitate growing of a plant.

2. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the stackable unit defines a central axis and the drainage unit extends substantially parallel to the central axis of the stackable unit but is spaced radially therefrom.

3. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein each stackable unit includes at least two growth medium containers and each of the growth medium containers communicates with at least two dispensing openings to facilitate transfer of the fluid from the reservoir to the growth medium container.

4. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the capillary member is a plug which fills the dispensing opening and facilitates passage of fluid, via capillary action, from the reservoir to the growth medium container.

5. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the capillary member is an elongate tubular member having first and second opposed ends, one end of the capillary tubular member communicates with a first one of the dispensing openings and the second end of the capillary tubular member communicates with a second dispensing opening, and an intermediate portion of the tubular member is accommodated within the growth medium container.

6. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the growth medium container is sized to accommodate a volume of growth medium of between about

500 and 5000 cubic inches, and the reservoir is sized to accommodate a volume of fluid of between 25 and 140 fluid ounces.

7. The stackable unit according to claim 2, wherein the capillary member has a wall thickness of about between 0.0625 and 0.5 inches so as to facilitate an adequate fluid transfer rate, via the capillary member, such that growth medium contained within the at least one growing medium container is maintained sufficiently saturated.

8. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the stackable unit includes a plurality of growing medium containers, and the plurality of growing medium containers are arranged radially symmetrically about the reservoir.

9. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the stackable unit is shaped to matingly engage with a lower portion of another stackable unit to facilitate nesting of at least two stackable units with one another in a nested array;

10. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the stackable unit forms a male component which matingly engages with a female component of an adjacent lower stackable unit to facilitate nesting of at least two stackable units with one another in a nested array;

11. The stackable unit according to claim 9, wherein a volume of fluid enters the reservoir of a top most stackable unit, fluid will overflow through the drainage channel of the top most stackable unit and into the reservoir of an adjacent lower stackable unit.

12. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the stackable unit further includes an indexing structure for engaging immediately adjacent stackable units with one another such that the drainage channels of the immediately adjacent stackable units are prevented from being vertically aligned with one another.

13. The stackable unit according to claim 1, wherein the stackable unit includes a deflection plate associated with the drainage channel which forms a shield and deflects fluid flowing through the drainage channel.

14. A kit of parts comprising a plurality of stackable unit for automatically dispensing fluid to at least one growing medium container associated with the stackable unit, each of the plurality of stackable units comprising:

at least one growing medium container;

a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;

a drainage channel communicating with the reservoir, and the drainage channel having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate draining of excess fluid from the reservoir;

the reservoir having at least one lateral dispensing opening for dispensing fluid from the reservoir into growing medium, when accommodated by the at least one growing medium container of the stackable unit; and

the least one lateral dispensing opening supporting a capillary member which controls flow of fluid from the reservoir to the at least one growing medium container, for providing moisture to thereto to facilitate growing of a plant.

15. The kit of parts according to claim 14, wherein an upper portion of each of the plurality of stackable units is shaped to matingly engage with a lower portion of another one of the plurality of stackable units to facilitate nesting of the plurality of stackable units with one another in a nested array, and when the plurality of stackable units are nested with one another to form a nested array, any excess fluid flowing into the reservoir of a top most stackable unit of the nested array, will overflow through the drainage channel of the top most stackable unit and into the reservoir of an immediately adjacent lower stackable unit of the nested array.

16. The kit of parts according to claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of stackable units defines a central axis and each drainage unit extends substantially parallel to the central axis of the stackable unit but is spaced radially therefrom, and each of the plurality of stackable units includes at least two growth medium containers and each of the growth medium containers communicates with at least two dispensing openings to facilitate transfer of the fluid from the reservoir to the growth medium container.

17. The kit of parts according to claim 14, wherein each capillary member is a plug which fills the dispensing opening and facilitates passage of fluid, via capillary action, from the reservoir to the growth medium container.

18. The kit of parts according to claim 14, wherein each capillary member is an elongate tubular member having first and second opposed ends, one end of the capillary tubular member communicates with a first one of the dispensing openings and the second end of the capillary tubular member communicates with a second dispensing opening, and an intermediate portion of the tubular member is accommodated within the growth medium container.

19. The kit of parts according to claim 14, wherein each growth medium container is sized to accommodate a volume of growth medium of between about 500 and 5000 cubic inches, each reservoir is sized to accommodate a volume of fluid of between 25 and 140 fluid ounces and each capillary member has a wall thickness of about between 0.0625 and 0.5 inches so as to facilitate an adequate fluid transfer rate, via the capillary member, such that growth medium contained within the at least one growing medium container is maintained sufficiently saturated.

20. A method of forming a nested array of a plurality of stackable units for automatically dispensing fluid to at least one growing medium container associated with the stackable unit, each stackable unit of the nested array comprising:

- at least one growing medium container;

- a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;

- a drainage channel communicating with the reservoir, and the drainage channel having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate draining of excess fluid from the reservoir;

- the reservoir having at least one lateral dispensing opening for dispensing fluid from the reservoir into growing medium, when accommodated by the at least one growing medium container of the stackable unit; and

- the least one lateral dispensing opening supporting a capillary member which controls flow of fluid from the reservoir to the at least one growing medium container, for providing moisture to thereto to facilitate growing of a plant;

- stacking the plurality of stackable units one on top of the other to form the nested array;

- filling the reservoir of each of the plurality of stackable units in the nested array, by merely filling a top most reservoir, and allowing fluid to overflow from each reservoir into the drainage channel until each reservoir is filled.